

2. (Amended) The invention according to Claim 1, wherein the first end portion is operable to be implanted into a phalange selected from a group consisting of proximal phalanges, intermediate phalanges, distal phalanges, and combinations thereof.

3. (Amended) The invention according to Claim 1, wherein the second end portion is operable to be implanted into a phalange selected from a group consisting of proximal phalanges, intermediate phalanges, distal phalanges, and combinations thereof.

16. (Amended) The invention according to Claim 15, wherein the first end portion is operable to be implanted into a phalange selected from a group consisting of proximal phalanges, intermediate phalanges, distal phalanges, and combinations thereof.

17. (Amended) The invention according to Claim 15, wherein the second end portion is operable to be implanted into a phalange selected from a group consisting of proximal phalanges, intermediate phalanges, distal phalanges, and combinations thereof.

27. (Amended) The invention according to Claim 26, wherein providing a bore includes providing a bore in the first phalange selected from a group consisting of

5/13, proximal phalanges, intermediate phalanges, distal phalanges, and combinations thereof.

Q3 28. (Amended) The invention according to Claim 26, wherein providing a bore includes providing a bore in the second phalange selected from a group consisting of proximal phalanges, intermediate phalanges, distal phalanges, and combinations thereof.

Please add the following new claims.

29. (New) A device for insertion into a first phalange and a second adjacent phalange so as to fuse the first phalange to the second phalange, comprising:

substantially rigid elongated member comprised of a resorbable material;

wherein the member has a first end portion, a middle portion, and second end portion spaced and opposed from the first end portion;

wherein the middle portion has a fixed curvature such that a fixed angle is formed between the first end portion and the second end portion.

Q4 30. (New) A device for insertion into a first phalange and a second adjacent phalange so as to fuse the first phalange to the second phalange, comprising:

substantially rigid elongated member comprised of a resorbable material;

wherein the member has a first end portion, a middle portion, and second end portion spaced and opposed from the first end portion;

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wherein the first end portion and the second end portion have a surface portion for facilitating retention within the first phalange and the second phalange;

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wherein the middle portion has a fixed curvature such that a fixed angle is formed between the first end portion and the second end portion;

wherein the fixed angle is substantially anatomically correct.
